Financial Recruitments for Fertiliser Projects during Eighth Plan

2525. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an inter-ministerial working group to study the financial requirements for setting up fertiliser projects during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to tone up the production capacity of fertiliser units through out the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Government is continuosly monitoring the production of fertilisers by manufacturers. Apart from revamp and rehabilitation and retrafitting of existing old units, it is also actively assisting the manufacturers in obtaining raw materials such as natural gas, petroleum feedsteels, coal etc. and services such as electricity, water etc. It also assists them in allocation of wagons for despatch of finished fertilisers. As a result of these measures, the capacity utilisation of existing plants is by and large being maintained at a very high level

Strategy for Public Sector

2526. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKRA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a three point strategy to improve the performance of public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the sick public sector units are incurring heavy losses; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). The strategy to improve the performance of public sector has been announced in the Industrial Policy Statement of July, 1991.

(c) and (d). As per the performance of the enterprises during 1990-91, there are 54 sick public sector enterprises which have incurred a loss of Rs. 1472.88 crores. The enterprises which are covered under the provisions of SICA are required to be reffered to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulatin of revival/ rehabilitation schemes for these enterprises.

[*Translation*]

Essential Commodities to Labourers and Farmers

2527. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Essential Commodities are being made available to the landless and poor labourers and small farmers at reasonable rates in the country;

(b) if so,whether any complaints have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The Public Distribution System is universal in Character and does not distinguish the beneficiaries based on income or occupation etc. While the Central Government has assumed responsibility for procurement, storag and transportation of key essential commodities, viz. rice, wheat, levy sugar, edible oils, kerosene and soft coke the implementation of the PDS rests with the State Governments UT Administrations. Complaints about non-availability of PDS items are looked into by the State Governments and UT Administrations and remedial action taken.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to monitor the supply and availability of essential commodities to the consumers, undertake regular inspection to curb unfair trade practices, diversion of PDS commodities into the open market and over see the distribution of the commodities from the fair price shops to the consumers. State Governments/UT Administrations have also been requested to set up Vigilance Committees at various levels including at Fair Price Shops/ Village level by involving consumers, particularly representatives of women, voluntary and Consumer organisations. Strengthening and streamlining of PDS is a continual process.

Adultration of Coal

2528. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints of adultration of coal being supplied from coal mines have been received;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Coal consumers, mostly power stations, have made complaints about receipt of oversized coal and presence of stones, shales and other extraneous material. In certain mines, thin bands of clay and stone occur inter-beded in the coal seams While mining coal from such seams, those bands get mixed with coal. Following stops are taken to minimise the quantity of stones and shales in coal sent to consumers:-

(i) while loading coal at the face in under ground mines, these extraneous materials are segregeted.

(ii) In the stocks on surface, wherever feasible mannual picking is done to remov shale and stone pieces, and

(iii) In Coal Handling Plants slow moving picking belts are provided where picking up of shale and stone pieces is done.

Revival of closed Coal Mines

2529. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to revive the closed coal mines in Bihar after they declared as uneconomical;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;